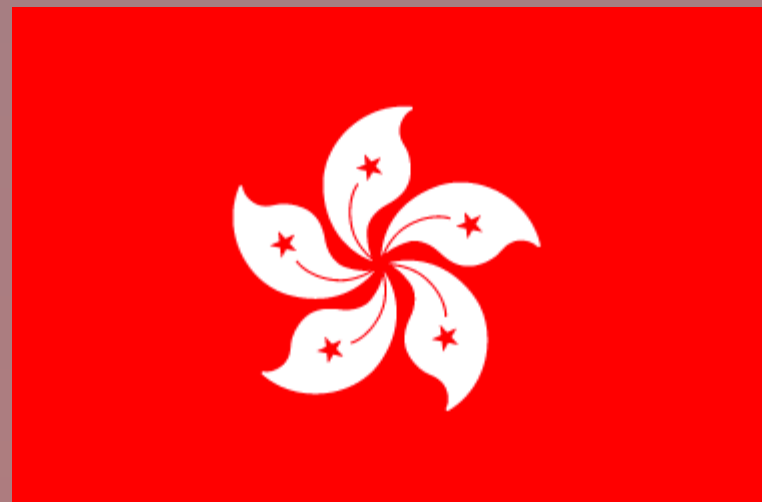


Hong Kong SAR:

Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of China and is home to 7.3 million individuals. Previous to 1997, Hong Kong was a part of the British Monarchy for 157 years. Thus the region is rich mixture of both modern British and traditional Chinese influences.

In 1951, mainland China signed the *UN Refugee Convention* however Hong Kong did not sign and therefore was it not extended to the Special Administrative Region. Currently, Hong Kong has approximately 10,000 asylum seekers and recognized refugees. They comprise 0.2 percent of the total population in Hong Kong.



Global Field Agency:

Christian Action – Centre for Refugees is the only drop-in center for asylum seekers and refugees in Hong Kong. Their aim is to provide a holistic support system to impoverished and disadvantaged refugees and asylum seekers in Hong Kong.

Services include:

- Providing basic necessities such as emergency housing, food, clothing, baby formula and toiletries
- Education support and assistance with transportation to school
- Psychosocial support and counseling
- Language courses
- Support and therapeutic groups
- Skills and educational trainings
- Recreational outings (soccer, basketball, hiking etc.)

Placement Information:

This placement was organized through Hong Kong University's Department of Social Work and lasted 10 weeks. While no two days were similar at this placement, MSW interns worked as case managers and completed the following duties:

- Managed a caseload of approximately 3-4 clients while assisting fellow caseworkers
- Provided counseling and support to new arrivals
- Assisted with providing basic necessities such as finding housing and enrolling children in the local school system
- Co-facilitated a support group for refugee mothers
- Created and facilitated an agency wide evaluation
- Crisis management



Class Connections:

- **SW 625: IP Children & Families** – This course helped me gain a deeper understanding of the effects of trauma and how they manifest in children and families. Many refugees experience inherent trauma whether it was in their home country, during their journey or in Hong Kong.
- **LAW 752: Combatting Human Trafficking** - This course taught me about the complex dynamics of human trafficking. Many refugees are at a higher risk of being trafficked due to their vulnerable state.
- **SW 605 – Infant Mental Health** – This course taught me how essential the parent-child relationship is, especially during infancy. I was able to use and demonstrate my attachment knowledge while planning my parenting group and working with families.



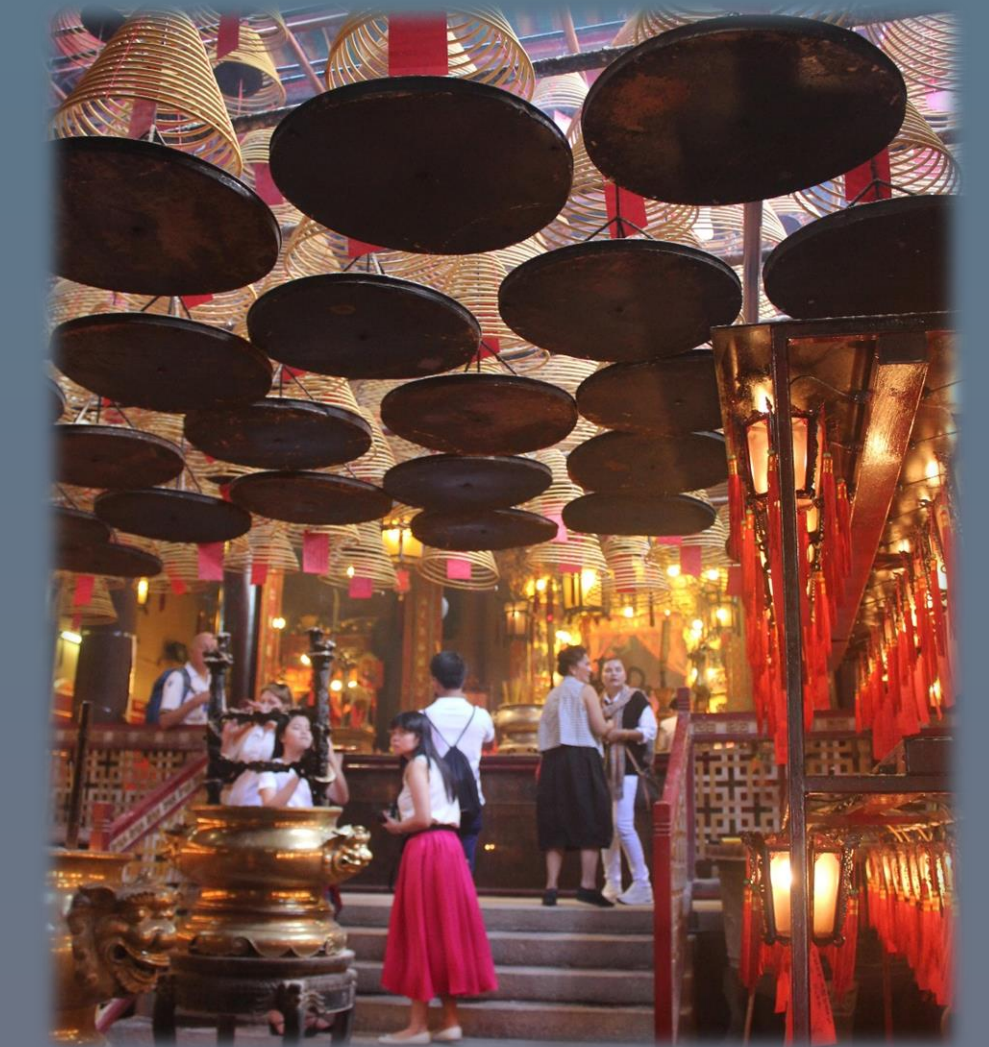
Outcomes:

- Organized an annual town hall with approximately 150 clients/community members
- Wrote and implemented a domestic violence protocol for the agency
- Co-wrote a policy brief on the Rights of Refugee Children in Hong Kong SAR
- Created and implemented an agency wide evaluation and client survey
- Planned a 6 month parenting skills/support group curriculum to be implemented in January 2018.



Advice:

- This agency's hectic atmosphere requires interns to be proactive and independent
- Take time to get to know clients and their stories, regardless if they are on your caseload.
- Take advantage of all that Hong Kong has to offer, head out of the city to experience amazing hikes, beaches and cultural sites!



Skills Utilized/Developed:

- Multitasking
- Patience
- Assertiveness
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Advocacy
- Treatment planning
- Assessment
- Crisis management

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Thank you for The Centre for Refugees for welcoming me in as an intern and providing me the opportunity to learn and grow over the summer. An additional thank you to Hong Kong University for their ongoing assistance and help over the summer as an exchange student and to the Office of Global Activities for their financial and academic support!